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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION**

KIRSTI PARDE, a/k/a KIRSTI EDMONDS-WEST, an individual,

v. Plaintiff,

**SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL
721, a labor organization; SHERRI R.
CARTER, in her official capacity as
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court of the
Superior Court of California, Los Angeles
County; COUNTY OF LOS
ANGELES; and ROB BONTA, in his
official capacity as Attorney General of
California,**

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:22-cv-03320

**SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEFING ON
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO CONDUCT
DISCOVERY ON THE ISSUE OF
SUBJECT MATTER
JURISDICTION**

Second Am. Compl. Filed: July 22, 2022
Hearing Date: October 20, 2022
Hearing Time: 08:30 a.m.
Courtroom: 9D

1 At the hearing on October 20, 2022, the Court requested that Plaintiff provide
 2 additional briefing on why this Court must address the Rule 12(b)(1) arguments raised
 3 in Defendants' Motions to Dismiss *before* turning to the Rule 12(b)(6) arguments of
 4 the Defendants' Motions to Dismiss. The Court should do so for four reasons.

5 First, the discovery Ms. Parde seeks is very limited but would give me Ms.
 6 Parde the ability to rebut SEIU 721's mootness argument. If Ms. Parde can identify
 7 how her signature ended up on the 2020 Membership Agreement, she can rebut SEIU
 8 721's argument that her case is moot. SEIU 721's argument that because Ms. Parde
 9 alleges that her injury is the result of California state statute and not the 2020
 10 Membership Agreement, she is not entitled to discovery on SEIU 721's procedures is
 11 not logically sound. If Ms. Parde discovers that SEIU 721 is responsible for Ms.
 12 Parde's unauthorized signature, it still remains the case that the *statute* created the
 13 conditions for the unauthorized signature to result in constitutional harm. Discovery,
 14 however, helps to clarify the likelihood of recurrence.

15 Second, without discovery, this Court's ruling on the 12(b)(1) portion of SEIU
 16 721's Motion to Dismiss, and therefore, the Court's own jurisdiction over prospective
 17 relief, would be "hypothetical." In *Steel Co. v. Citizens for a Better Environment*, the
 18 Supreme Court declined to endorse the "doctrine of hypothetical jurisdiction"—the
 19 practice of a court assuming jurisdiction for the purpose of deciding a case on more
 20 easily determined merits—because it "offends fundamental principles of separation of
 21 powers" by encouraging the court to act outside the bounds of constitutionally
 22 authorized judicial action. 523 U.S. 83, 94 (1998). Article III of the U.S. Constitution
 23 defines the bounds of constitutionally authorized judicial action and includes the

1 requirement that “an actual controversy . . . be extant at all stages of review, not merely
 2 at the time the complaint is filed.” *Campbell-Ewald Co. v. Gomez*, 577 U.S. 153, 160-
 3 61 (2016) (holding that an unaccepted offer cannot moot a plaintiff’s claim). However,
 4 “[a] case becomes moot . . . only when it is impossible for a court to grant *any effectual*
 5 *relief whatever* to the prevailing party” and “[a]s long as the parties have a concrete
 6 interest, *however small*, in the outcome of the litigation, the case is not moot.” *Id.* at
 7 161 (internal citations and quotations omitted) (emphasis added). The plaintiff must
 8 continue to have a “personal stake in the outcome of the lawsuit.” *Id.* (internal citations
 9 and quotations omitted).

10 Here, if the Court does not grant discovery on the issue of whether Ms. Parde’s
 11 injuries can recur, then it will be very difficult for Ms. Parde to prove she continues
 12 to have a personal stake in the litigation, that her personal stake is a concrete interest,
 13 and the court may grant her effectual relief. Ms. Parde should be granted discovery on
 14 the limited subject of prospective future harm so that the court can both decide the
 15 Rule 12(b)(1) challenge and assure itself that jurisdiction is appropriate under Article
 16 III of the U.S. Constitution.

17 Third, this Court cannot rule on the Rule 12(b)(1) portions of the Defendants’
 18 Motions to Dismiss if it does so based on facts that are intertwined with the 12(b)(6)
 19 merits of the case. *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir.
 20 2004).

21 To illustrate this specifically:

22 In the 12(b)(6) portion of the Motions to Dismiss, this Court will have to
 23 determine, for purposes of a § 1983 argument, whether SEIU 721, a private actor, can

1 be liable as a state actor. The test for this is laid out in *Collins v. Womancare*, 878 F.2d
 2 1145, 1150–51 (9th Cir. 1989). In *Collins*, the Ninth Circuit held that a private party
 3 may be liable as a state actor if: (1) SEIU 721, using state law, deprived Ms. Parde of
 4 a constitutional right; and (2) SEIU 721 was acting like a state actor. If this Court rules
 5 that Ms. Parde’s constitutional deprivations resulted from SEIU 721’s improper
 6 actions which cannot recur, rather than the state statute that enables the union’s
 7 conduct, it will be deciding a 12(b)(1) question using 12(b)(6) facts. That mootness
 8 and merits are so intertwined means that they must be decided separately.

9 Fourth, this case is different from *Zielinski*, *Wright* and *Ochoa* in one
 10 fundamental way. In each of those cases, the question before the Court was whether
 11 the plaintiffs had standing, and the burden was on each of the plaintiffs to show this.
 12 Here, the question is one of mootness, since Ms. Parde filed her case *before* the
 13 Defendants stopped dues deductions. Once they did so, she was able to argue that
 14 stopping the objectionable conduct *after* the filing of a suit enabled her to use the
 15 voluntary cessation exception to mootness. *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Env'tl.*
 16 *Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 189 (2000) (“It is well settled that a defendant’s
 17 voluntary cessation of a challenged practice does not deprive a federal court of its
 18 power to determine the legality of the practice.” (internal quotation marks omitted)).
 19 As opposed to proving standing, the “‘heavy burden’ lies with the party asserting
 20 mootness to demonstrate that, after a voluntary cessation, the challenged conduct
 21 cannot reasonably be expected to start up again.” *Id.* (cleaned up). Therefore, this
 22 Court must enable Ms. Parde to rebut the allegations that the Defendants’ have
 23 satisfied *their* burden that the case is moot.

1 SEIU 721 cannot unring the bell. It cannot present evidence on the issue of
2 mootness and then claim that that evidence is not dispositive. For this reason and the
3 reasons discussed above, Ms. Parde should be entitled to limited discovery on this
4 issue of how her signature appeared on a membership agreement that she never
5 signed.

6 Date: October 27, 2022

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